

Oct. 27th.

The President, Mr. LEA, in the Chair.

Thirty-two members present.

On report of the respective Committees, the following were ordered to be published :

Description of a Collection of JASPER "LANCE-HEADS" found near Trenton, New Jersey; and Remarks on the Locality, with reference to Indian Antiquities.

BY CHARLES C. ABBOTT.

During the summer of 1861, a farmer, while engaged in plowing an artificially drained piece of meadow, near Trenton, New Jersey, discovered a large collection of jasper "lance-heads," buried at a distance of about fifteen inches below the surface of the ground. The author visited the spot shortly afterwards, and has lately secured the collection; a portion of which is now in the possession of the Academy.

The collection numbers about one hundred and fifty specimens; they having been all carefully gathered when exhumed. They are of such shape as renders the term "lance-head" probably most appropriate, each having a well-defined point, sharpened edges, and straight, blunt base. They measure from five and a half to seven inches in length, from two and a half to three inches in width, and from one-third to three-fourths of an inch in thickness.

Some six or eight of the specimens have the maximum length and minimum width, and two or three are obtusely pointed at either end; otherwise, any one specimen is a fair representative of the whole number. The material from which these "lance-heads" were manufactured, is a dark yellow jasper, more or less veined, and occasionally enclosing a ribbon of shot-like, glassy particles. A mass of this mineral was found not far distant from the spot where the "lance-heads" were discovered, and from it, evidently, they had been made, as the characteristics of the specimens were well marked in the unused mass.

The collection, when discovered, was arranged in a series of circles, the specimens being placed upright on their bases; and each circle was closely fitted within the other. Two-thirds of the collection was so arranged, while the remaining third, lying on their sides, walled them around so closely, that had they been upon the surface, they would have maintained their position. No jasper is found in the locality, otherwise than as small, irregularly shaped fragments, and as small-arrow heads of various outlines.

The neighborhood of Trenton, or that portion of it extending from the southernmost limit of the city to Bordentown, bounded on the west by the river Delaware, and east by the Trenton and Crosswicks Turnpike, is here treated of. This includes a meadow, bluff and upland, six miles in length, by from two to four in width; and in any section whatsoever of the locality is to be found, more or less abundantly, Indian antiquities. These, for the most part, consist of arrow-heads of yellow, green, black and olive colored jasper, also of white quartz. These arrow-heads are of various shapes, and average an inch and a half in length. Stone axes of two patterns are abundant; one having a well defined edge and back, with a deeply worn notch on each side, for fastening a handle thereto; the other having an as equally well marked edge, but with the back tapering to a point. These latter are generally made of serpentine. Pipes of three varieties are occasionally found; one being a cylindrical bowl of two inches in length, with a pedestal, giving it the appearance of a wine-glass; another having a globular bowl, well hollowed

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out, and a stem of an inch in length curving upward from the bottom, being similar in shape to most of the briar-root pipes of the present day; the third variety is a flattened tube of an inch and a half in width by three inches in length, with a bowl of an inch in diameter upon one end. Of this latter variety but two specimens have been found, so far as the author can ascertain. They were both well covered with deeply engraved designs, the principal one of which was evidently intended for the rising or setting sun. Fragments of pottery are also numerous, but not as promiscuously scattered in the locality as are the other articles mentioned. They are generally from two to four inches square, and always marked more or less with lines, dots, circles, &c., but never appear to have any particular design.

The bluff fronting the Delaware, and varying from thirty to seventy feet in height, contains, throughout the greater portion of its extent, human skeletons in a moderate state of preservation. They are all buried in a recumbent position, with their feet pointing to the east invariably. The majority of them are encased in clay coffins, which latter have so far proved too fragile to bear exhuming entire.

*No skeletons have yet been discovered with these, that have been buried in a SITTING POSTURE, but below the southern limit of the locality treated of in this paper (Bordentown) the skeletons exhumed are found in such a position.**

These clay coffins, as the fragments of pottery to be found, are always covered with fantastical markings, evidently intending to portray, in the coffins, however, some object or objects; but specimens have not yet been procured of sufficient size to determine the exact character of the figuring. This pottery is generally a third of an inch in thickness.

The following interesting account was communicated to me by Mr. T. A. Conrad of Trenton—member of the Academy:

"In 1829, while taking earth from the bluff bank of Watson's creek, a small stream about a mile distant from the locale of the "lance-heads," a fire-place or oven was discovered. The spot was walled about with large stones, all well blackened by fire, and the enclosure was covered with well preserved wood ashes. Fragments of pottery were also scattered about the enclosure, and pieces of larger size were inside, indicating the breakage there of a vessel. The "fire-place" or oven was about seven feet below the top of the creek bank, about two feet above high-water mark, and three below the level of the surrounding meadow."

The meadow surrounding the place is usually inundated once yearly, but at present the deposition is not appreciable; although Mr. Conrad states that the whole meadows were formed by such depositions.

These are the points of interest connected with the locality, and with the discovery of the collection of "lance-heads," which latter appears to be an unique phase in the discovery of Indian antiquities in this neighborhood. Many vague rumors prevail in the locality of the discovery now and then, and formerly, of copper bracelets, strings of sea-shells on copper-wire, &c., but no such specimens have been seen, as yet, by the author.

Description of a New Species of PLEUROCERA.

BY GEORGE W. TRYON, JR.

PLEUROCERA PLICATUM, Tryon, t. 2, f. 6.

Description.—Shell ovate-conical, spire attenuate, the upper whorls closely plicate, the lower ones smooth or obsoletely concentrically striate. Whorls

* Catalogue of Crania in Acad. Nat. Sci., Philadelphia, by J. Aitken Meigs, M. D. Manta Indian crania.